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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/776,189	TAKAYUKI NODA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammed Hasan	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 20.
3. The drawings filed on 12 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All . b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/12/2004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt of acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a) – (d), which papers have placed of record in the file.

Oath/Declaration

2. Oath and declaration filed on 2/12/2004 is accepted.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 2/12/2004 have all been considered and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO – 1449).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 – 20 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularly or in a combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the

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limitations of the independent claims, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims 1 and 9, for example which include a zoom lens having two lens group in order from an object side first lens group having a first lens component having a negative power that is made of plastic has at least one aspheric surface and a second lens component having a positive refractive power and a second lens group having a stop, a first lens component consisting a first lens element having a biconvex shape and made of plastic with at least one surface aspheric and a second lens element having a negative power with the absolute vale of the curvature of its object-side lens surface being smaller than the absolute value of the curvature of its image-side lens surface and an image-side lens surface joined with a biconvex lens element and following condition are satisfied :

$$B^{1/2} < f_{G2} / f_w < 0.9 \cdot B,$$

$$-2.0 < f_{G1-1} / f_w < -1.5,$$

$$R_{G2-1} / f_w > 0.8,$$

$$| f_{G1} / f_w | < 3 \cdot B,$$

where B is the zoom ratio of the zoom lens namely, the ratio of the focal length at the telephoto end divided by the focal length at the wide-angle end, f_{G2} is the focal length of the second lens group, f_w is the focal length of the zoom lens at the wide-angle end, f_{G1-1} is the focal length of the first lens component of the first lens group, R_{G2-1} is the radius of curvature of the object-side lens surface of the first lens element of the second lens group, and f_{G1} is the focal length of the first lens group (claim 1); and

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$| f_w / R_1 | < 0.08$, $10 < | f_{G2-2,3} / f_w | < 100$, where R_1 is the radius of curvature of the object-side lens surface of the first lens component of the first lens group, $f_{G2-2,3}$ is the composite focal length of the joined elements of the second lens group (claim 9).

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The closest prior art

Tomioka (6,762,887 B2) discloses, a wide-angle zoom lens.

Noda (2003/0179465 A1) discloses, a two-group zoom lens.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammed Hasan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2331. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on (571) 272- 2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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December 29,2004



Scott J. Sugarman
Primary Examiner